

**REMARKS**

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated December 14, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, claims 10, 11, 13, 15 and 17 are hereby amended, and claims 16 and 18-19 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-15 and 17 are currently pending, of which claims 1-9 are withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant affirms the election of claims 10-19 made November 22, 2006.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 10 and 13 are objected to because of minor informalities. Applicant respectfully requests that these objections be withdrawn in view of the current amendments in claims 10 and 13.

On pages 8-9 of the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 11-12 and 15 are substantial duplicates of claims 18-19 and 16, respectively. In response, claims 16 and 18-19 are hereby cancelled.

On pages 3-6 of the Office Action, claims 11-12 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2001/0013920) in view of Komine et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,292,368); claims 12-13 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Komine et al and Shinoda (JP 2001-235758); claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Komine et al, Shinoda and Hachiman et al. (JP 2001-356353); and claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Komine et al, Shinoda and Yamamoto et al. (JP 61-055625). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 11 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 11 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...mounting a plurality of syringes each having a nozzle at one end portion at a plurality of robot arms arranged at opposing sides of a table, at least two robot arms arranged at each opposing side of the table..." None of the cited references, singly or in

combination, teaches or suggests at least the aforementioned feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 and claims 10 and 12, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 13 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 13 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...mounting a plurality of syringes each having a nozzle at one end portion at a plurality of robot arms arranged at opposing sides of first and second tables, at least two robot arms arranged at each opposing side of the first and second tables..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least the aforementioned feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 and claim 14, which depends from claim 13, are allowable over the cited references.

On page 6-7 of the Office Action, claims 12, 15-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Komine et al, Shinoda and Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0083203). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and reconsideration is requested.

Because Hashimoto et al. ('203) fails to cure the deficient teachings of Hashimoto in view of Komine et al and Shinoda as discussed above, claim 12, which depends from claim 11, is allowable over the cited references.

Claim 15 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 15 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...mounting a plurality of syringes each having a nozzle at one end portion at a plurality of robot arms arranged at opposing sides of first, second, and third tables, at least two robot arms arranged at each opposing side of the first, second and third tables..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least the aforementioned feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 is allowable over the cited references.

Claim 17 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 17 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...mounting a first plurality of syringes at a first plurality of robot arms arranged at opposing sides of a table, at least two first robot arms arranged at each opposing side of the table; mounting a second plurality of syringes at a second plurality of robot arms arranged at the opposing sides of the table, at least two second robot arms arranged at each opposing side of the table;..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or

suggests at least the aforementioned feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 is allowable over the cited references.

On pages 7-8 of the Office Action, claims 10-12 and 18-19 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 16-25 of copending Application No. 10/825,362; and claims 13-17 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 16-25 of copending Application No. 10/825,362 in view of Ogino et al. (JP 2001-330840). Applicant respectfully submits that in view of amendments in claims 10, 11, 13, 15 and 17, these provisional double patenting rejections are believed to be moot.

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: **14 March 2007**

Respectfully submitted,

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